

Tips to Prepare a Child for Visits

WINDOW Victim Services is here to provide a safe supervised visitation center for adults and children.

We would like to make the center as safe and comfortable as possible for children and adults.

As the provider we would like to see the child/children before the first visit. This can help the children see where they are going to be, meet the supervising facilitator, show them the toys and games that are available to them, and make them aware of the different safety procedures that our center is equipped with.

At this time we can address any concerns that the child/children may have as well as any concerns that you as a parent may have.

1. When preparing your child for visits let the child know where the visit will be, who will be there, and how long it will be for. Try to tell the child/children a few days before the visit. This way they will know to expect it but will not have a lot of time to worry about it.
2. Tell the kids that they can bring snacks and toys to the visit. A favorite stuffed animal, blanket or game may help the child/children feel more comfortable. Another idea would be to lend your watch to your child then the child would know when you would return.
3. Reassure the child/children that the supervising facilitator is there to help them and make sure that they are safe.
4. Make sure to use words that the child understands.
5. Tell the children that they will not be forced to say or do anything they don't want to during the visit.

6. The situation may also involve not wanting the noncustodial parent to know your home address, etc. If the noncustodial parent asks a child about where they live, their school, who their teacher is, or where they go to daycare, we will stop the conversation immediately. Instruct your children when asked these questions if the supervising facilitator does not immediately catch the question that they should not answer or say “I don’t know” or “I don’t remember”.
7. Tell your child/children if they need to take a break from the visit they can tell the supervisor. If they start to feel uncomfortable maybe they can make up a secret hand signal so that the supervising facilitator will know that they want to take a break.
8. Make sure the child/children know that if they are mad or sad they can talk whenever they feel ready to the visiting parent or supervising facilitator. It’s ok to tell how they feel.
9. If children ask why? Every situation is different. A child may be scared because of what they saw, heard, or endured. As a parent try not to make the children more scared or say bad things about the visiting parent. This could lead to a harder transition into the supervised visits and make it harder for the child to feel safe and comfortable. For example, if supervised visits were court ordered for you could tell the child that the judge said that this is the way that they have to do it. Make sure they don’t think it is their fault, the other parents fault or your fault.

Supervised Visitation allows for the children to maintain a relationship with the noncustodial parent(s) this is found to be important and positive to a child.

We will try our hardest as a provider to keep you and your child/children at a low stress level and keep them safe so that they can enjoy the visits as much as possible.